

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12

T-03 OMB-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /097 W

----- 048677

R 140923 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3786

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 1032

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, VN, MY

SUBJECT: GOM SOON TO ESTABLISH TIES WITH HANOI

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 741

SUMMARY. DEPUTY PM' S STATEMENT THAT GOM TO ESTABLISH TIES WITH HANOI THIS WEEK APPARENTLY PREMATURE, BUT MFA SEC GEN CONFIRMS THAT NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY AND RELATIONS WOULD BE SET- UP " VERY SOON, PROBABLY BEFORE END OF THIS MONTH." AMONG OTHER CONSIDERATIONS GOM WISHES TO BE IN POSITION INFLUENCE HANOI TOWARD REGIONAL ORIENTATION AND AWAY FROM PEKING. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING AP PRESS REP KL, HONG KONG AFP STORY QUOTING DEPUTY PM ISMAIL AS STATING MALAYSIA WILL ESTABLISH FORMAL TIES WITH HANOI THIS WEEK IS BASED ON INTERVIEW ISMAIL GAVE BERNAMA ( MALAYSIAN NATIONAL PRESS SERVICE) IN AUSTRALIA MAR 12. IN CONVERSATION LATER THAT DAY MFA SEC GEN ZAITON CONFIRMED TO AP MAN THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH HANOI WERE PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY, BUT CERTAIN ISSUES REMAIN UNRESOLVED AND IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CONSUMMATE AGREEMENT THIS WEEK. ZAITON  
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CONTINUED AND, THIS VERSION WAS LATER PASSED TO PRESS, THAT RELATIONS WOULD BE ESTABLISHED " VERY SOON, PROBABLY BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH."

2. AP SOURCE SAID THAT REMAINDER OF STORY ACCURATE AND CONFORMED WITH INFORMATION WHICH HIGH- LEVEL MFA OFFICIALS RECENTLY HAVE BEEN FEEDING PRESS IN BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS. AP CONFIRMED THAT MALAYSIA WOULD FOLLOW CANADIAN FORMULA OF MAINTAINING AMBASSADORIAL- LEVEL RELATIONS WITH BOTH SAIGON AND HANOI ON EQUAL TERMS.

3. EMBASSY NOTES ISMAIL SAID THAT NEXT STEP WOULD BE TO SET UP TIES WITH PEKING.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS BEEN AWARE FOR SOME TIME THAT GOM- DRV CONTACTS UNDERWAY WITH VIEW TOWARD NORMALIZATION RELATIONS. GOM DECISION TO EXPEDITIOUSLY MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION AT THIS TIME BASED ON FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS ( IN ORDER OF RELATIVE IMPORTANCE):

A. MFA SEC GEN ZAITON RECENTLY TOLD AMB ( SEE REF) THAT AT FEB 15 KL MEETING ASEAN FIVE AGREED ON IMPORTANCE TO REGIONAL SECURITY OF ESTABLISHING DIALOGUE WITH HANOI TO INFLUENCE LATTER IN DIRECTION SEA ORIENTATION RATHER THAN AS REVOLUTIONARY APPENDAGE OF CHINA.

B. NORTH VIETNAM INCLUDED IN " ZONE OF PEACE, NEUTRALITY AND FREEDOM" ENVISAGED UNDER GOM SEA NEUTRALIZATION PROPOSAL. GOM CONSIDERS HANOI' S WILLINGNESS JOIN IN NEUTRALIZATION EFFORT AS INDISPENSIBLE TO ITS REALIZATION AND WOULD LIKE TO BE IN POSITION INFLUENCE HANOI IN THIS DIRECTION.

C. BY ESTABLISHING TIES WITH HANOI PRIOR TO NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH PEKING, GOM WISHES UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHES TO TIES WITH SEA COUNTRY.

D. GOM HAS INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING AND CASHING IN ON INDOCHINA REHABILITATION EFFORT AND IN VIEW OF HANOI' S REPORTED PREFERENCE FOR BILATERAL ARRANGMENTS, MALAYSIANS MAY WISH TO BE WELL- PLACED TO MAKE THEIR PITCH. DECON 12-31-74. LYDMAN

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**TAGS:** PFOR, MY  
**To:** BANGKOK  
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